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To: MLPAComments

Subject: North Central Coast Sportfishing

MLPA Comments

I am encouraging other sportfishers to participate as much as possible in the MPA process. I have always believed the DFG was responsible for and capable of regulating sportfishing in a manner consistent with protection of the resource. I don't understand how sportfishing, with artificial lures or flies, carefully regulated with respect to season and take, is so harmful that it needs to be prohibited. The Draft Plan authors don't explain it. Sportfishers often carefully release the fish, and have willingly accepted a zero limit when necessary. The money and political muscle provided by sportspersons has been inarguably important to many species, not just those we attempt to catch. I urge all sportfishers to make their views and concerns known to the Task Force.

The MPA Draft Plan mentions an emphasis on ecosystem-based management. We are part of that ecosystem, as are commercial fishermen that help feed us from it, as are the private and public companies that conduct commerce within it, as are the many sources of water pollution that the Draft Plan so pointedly excuses itself from addressing. When public interest in protecting the resource disappears because the public no longer is allowed to participate in it, then the future of that resource is dependent solely upon the whim of the private foundations of the world. They are admirable, but they are not accountable to the public, and this is a public resource. It should be publicly managed. Only a public effort can address all the important factors affecting our environment. The Draft Plan, in discussing future funding for MPAs, is explicit that most of the money required *should* come from the public, as tax revenue. If I and other sportspersons will be relied upon for funding, then our interests should be represented in democratic fashion. The members of the Task Force were appointed, not elected.

I have tried to couch my comments in terms that are rational and cogent to an issue of public policy, so that my point of view will be accepted as sound. The simple truth is that the current MPA plan will stop me from fly fishing in many places, without even explaining the necessity, and will use my tax dollars to do it. I oppose that. Let me, let us, fish. Thank you. Mark Bunter